

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 /080 W
-----127588 270505Z /10

R 261730Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9645
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
SECDEF WASH DC

S E C R E T CAIRO 13766

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL PINS EG
SUBJECT: MILITARY TRANSFERS

REF: CAIRO 13680

1. RESIDENT AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT TELLS US HE PICKING UP INCREASING RUMORS CONCERNING LARGE-SCALE MILITARY TRANSFERS WHICH, HIS INTERLOCUTEURS INSIST, ARE CONNECTED TO CRACKDOWN ON CIVILIAN DISSIDENTS. HE HAS BEEN UNABLE CONFIRM. ONLY DIRECT SOURCE CORRESPONDENT HAS BEEN ABLE TO LOCATE IS (UNNAMED) STAFF COLONEL WHO BEING TRANSFERRED TO "MAKE WORK" JOB AT WAR COLLEGE AS RESULT, HE SAYS, OF ADMITTEDLY LIBERAL VIEWS. COLONEL INSISTED SIMILAR ASSIGNMENTS BEING GIVEN TO MANY OF HIS COLLEAGUES.

2. AS REFTTEL NOTES, THIS IS NORMAL SEASON FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF MILITARY TRANSFERS/PROMOTIONS/RETIREMENTS.

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HOWEVER, ANIS MANSOUR'S DENIAL THAT CURRENT TRANSFERS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED SUGGESTS THAT, IN FACT, THIS EXPLANATION ENJOYS SOME CURRENCY. ONLY SENIOR TRANSFERS WE HAVE HEARD OF ARE GEN. GHALI (A CQPT) FROM COMMANDER SECOND ARMY TO SENIOR POSITION IN COMMUNICATIONS, GEN. BADAWI FROM COMMANDER THIRD ARMY TO CHIEF OF OPERATIONS (G-3), AND GEN. GRIDLEY FROM CHIEF, G-3 TO HEAD OF

WAR COLLEGE.

3. COMMENT: IN PRESENT POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE, OFFICERS
(AND OTHERS) ARE LIKELY TO SCRUTINIZE ALL TRANSFERS AND
PROMOTIONS PARTICULARLY CLOSELY. IN DEVELOPMENT
POSSIBLY RELATED TO RUMORS OF CHANGES IN MILITARY
COMMANDS, PRESS REPORTS SADAT IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT
BOTH SECOND AND THIRD ARMIES DURING HIS EARLY JUNE
TRIP TO CANAL ZONE. MATTHEWS

SECRET

NNN

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